

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 14078 01 OF 02 021636Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 OIC-02
HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 DODE-00 PA-01 DLOS-09 SSM-03
SSO-00 INRE-00 /120 W
-----000275 021651Z /64

O R 021623Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0904
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 14078

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, IS, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: 104TH EXECUTIVE BOARD: ITEM CON-
CERNING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES 7.1.6

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 5521, (B) PARIS 13965

1. AT ISRAELI REQUEST, AMBASSADOR TORRES, DEPUTY
PERMREP, AND DEPTOFF (IO/UNESCO) MET WITH ISRAELI
PERMREP JOFFE AND AMBASSADOR EMILE NAJAR ON EVENING OF
MAY 1. NAJAR, WHO REPRESENTED ISRAEL AT UNESCO'S
RECENT CONFERENCE TO DRAFT A DECLARATION ON RACE
AND RACIAL PREJUDICE, HAD FLOWN IN FROM TEL AVIV
ARRIVING SHORTLY BEFORE THE MEETING.

2. NAJAR WANTED TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF EXBD
ACTION RELATING TO PARAS. 198-200 OF DOCUMENT
104 EX/35 CONCERNING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THESE
ARE THE PARAS. THAT ORIGINALLY WERE SUBMITTED BY THE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14078 01 OF 02 021636Z

DIRECTOR-GENERAL AS UN ACTIVITIES FOR THE INFORMATION
OF THE EXBD, BUT WHICH THE SYRIAN MEMBER OF THE EXBD
BUREAU WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING MOVED UP TO THE
CATEGORY "FOR CONSIDERATION," VIRTUALLY GUARANTEEING
THAT THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED. PARA. 198 MENTIONS UNGA
RES. 3240, AND THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN

PEOPLE.

3. NAJAR DID NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE STATE OF PLAY AT THIS SESSION OF THE EXBD. HE THOUGHT THAT THE EXBD HAD NOT YET DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 20TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 28, 1978), WHEREAS THE EXBD DID, IN FACT, APPROVE THE DRAFT AGENDA LAST WEEK. HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN THAT THE EXBD, IN ITS DISCUSSION OF THESE PARAGRAPHS, MIGHT GET ITSELF INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE, ETC., WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE ITEM. HE SAID THAT IF UNESCO GOT INVOLVED IN THIS COMMITTEE, IT WOULD PRECIPITATE A CRISIS IN UNESCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS. HE RECOUNTED THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN EIGHT WEEKS OF COMMITTEE DEBATE OF THIS ISSUE AT THE UN, AND HE RESTATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE ISSUE IS HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE. HE DESCRIBED THE COMMITTEE AS THE VOICE OF THE PLO IN THE UN. HIS FEAR IS THAT THE EXBD WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE ITEM BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OF THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE.

4. WE POINTED OUT TO NAJAR THAT ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE IS NOT CURRENTLY ON THE 20TH GC DRAFT AGENDA, UNESCO PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

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PAGE 03 PARIS 14078 01 OF 02 021636Z

ARE SUCH THAT IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO GET IT ON THE AGENDA BETWEEN NOW AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14078 02 OF 02 021634Z

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NAJAR ACKNOWLEDGED THIS BUT SAID THERE WAS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ITS BEING PLACED ON THE AGENDA BY A MEMBER STATE AND BY THE BOARD. THE LATTER POSSIBILITY, WHICH WOULD GIVE THE ITEM, IN EFFECT, THE BOARD'S ENDORSEMENT, WAS TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS.

4. ON FRIDAY, MAY 5, EXBD IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS AGENDA ITEM 7.1.6, THE NEW ITEM ON THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. NAJAR INDICATED HE WOULD BE PRESENT FOR THE DISCUSSION. ISRAEL IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE EXBD, BUT, AS AN OBSERVER, COULD ASK FOR THE RIGHT TO MAKE A STATEMENT. AT HIS REQUEST, NAJAR WILL ADDRESS THOSE MEMBERS OF THE INFORMATION GROUP WHO ARE ON THE EXBD ON MAY 3. JOFFE FAVORED THIS COMPOSITION OVER A MEETING WITH THE FULL IG.

5. FOR DEPARTMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFO. ON THE COMMITTEE THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR US IN THE UNESCO FORUM.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14078 02 OF 02 021634Z

6. FOR TEL AVIV: PERMDEL WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF NAJAR'S POSITION IN THE OFA AND PROBABLE ROLE IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT.
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